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INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 3

DATE: 8 AUG 74

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDENT SUFFERS RELAPSE

REF ID: A66384 FBIS 84, PRAGUE, 081920Z AUG 74, UNCLAS

PRAGUE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT 78-YEAR OLD PRESIDENT SVOBODA HAS SUFFERED A RELAPSE AND IS BACK IN THE HOSPITAL.

SVOBODA WAS UNDER INTENSIVE CARE FOR A "FAILING OF HIS RESPIRATORY AND CIRCULATORY SYSTEMS" DURING MOST OF THE SPRING. WHEN HE WAS RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL IN LATE JUNE, MEDICAL OPINION HELD THAT HE WAS NO LONGER CAPABLE OF ~~INNOVATIVE~~ THINKING OR ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGEMENT.

~~PRESIDENT~~ PREMIER STROUGAL HAS EXERCISED SVOBODA'S PRESIDENTIAL DUTIES--AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION--SINCE MARCH 28.

SHOULD SVOBODA DIE, THE ■CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP WILL HAVE

DATE:  
ORIG:  
UNIT:  
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RELEASING OFFICER

**COORDINATING OFFICERS**

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TO COPE WITH THE QUESTION OF PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION. CURRENT  
ODDS CONTINUE TO FAVOR THE ELECTION OF PARTY CHIEF GUSTAV HUSAK  
TO THE PRESIDENCY AND HIS HOLDING THE TWO POSTS CONCURRENTLY.  
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